

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DKUX/ADUBS/HLK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, IN, BG

SUBJECT: INDIA AND BANGLADESH

REF: DACCA 5860

1. WE HAVE NO CORROBORATION OF THE SPECIFIC CHARGES REGARDING INDIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS, BUT IT IS OBVIOUS FROM REFTTEL THAT THE BGD IS IN A STATE OF GREATEST ANXIETY OVER ITS PERCEPTION OF INDIAN INTENTIONS TOWARD BANGLADESH. THERE IS, HOWEVER, SUFFICIENT SMOKE IN VARIOUS INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ON INDIAN ACTIVITIES THAT WE CANNOT DISREGARD BENGALIEE CONCERNS.

2. GIVEN EMBASSY ASSESSMENT IN DELHI'S 15804 THAT THE INDIANS REMAIN IN THE POSTURE OF WATCHING THE SITUATION CAREFULLY ON THE GROUND BUT HAVE NOT YET DECIDED TO ACT,

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WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL, WHILE WE MAY STILL HAVE SOME

ABILITY TO INFLUENCE SITUATION, TO CONVEY TO THE GOI AT A SENIOR LEVEL THE SENSE OF BENGALIAN CONCERNS, JUST AS WE HAVE RAISED INDIAN CONCERNS WITH THE BGD. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE AMBASSADOR SEE FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN (ASSUMING KEWAL SINGH IS STILL IN MOSCOW) TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION.

3. WE THINK THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD STRESS TO CHAVAN THE GREAT ANXIETY THE BENGALIANS HAVE REGARDING INDIAN INTEN-

TIONS NOTING THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE GOI TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO HELP CALM MATTERS, ESPECIALLY AS THE BGD ASSURES US IT IS TAKING SERIOUSLY INDIAN WORRIES ABOUT THE COMMUNAL SITUATION AND HAS ALSO ACTED RESPONSIBLY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE DEPLORABLE ATTACK ON INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER SAMAR SEN.

4. THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD CONVEY OUR FEAR THAT MUTUAL INDIAN AND BGD MISPERCEPTIONS OF EACH OTHER'S INTENTIONS MIGHT CREATE A DYNAMIC OF EVENTS THAT LED TO CONSEQUENCES NEITHER COUNTRY REALLY DESIRED. THE USG CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT INDIA SHARES OUR VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DETRIMENTAL TO THE PROSPECTS FOR STABILITY AND PEACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT, AND WOULD SET IN MOTION UNPREDICTABLE CHAIN REACTION, IF EXTERNAL POWERS WERE TO INTERVENE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF BANGLADESH.

5. WE CAN UNDERSTAND INDIA'S DESIRE TO HAVE GOVERNMENT IN BANGLADESH WHICH IS NOT HOSTILE TO INDIA. IN VIEW OF THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LEADERSHIP IN BANGLADESH, IT SEEMS TO US BEST TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO WORK WITH THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT. WE WOULD HOPE INDIA COULD SHOW SYMPATHY AND PATIENCE IN WHAT IS A DIFFICULT, TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. A LITTLE REASSURANCE MIGHT GO A LONG WAY IN HELPING TO REESTABLISH STABILITY IN BANGLADESH. THIS APPROACH SEEMS TO US THE COURSE MOST LIKELY TO KEEP THE BANGLADESH PROBLEM IN A SOUTH ASIAN CONTEXT, MINIMIZING THE POSSIBILITY THAT EXTERNAL POWERS WOULD BECOME INVOLVED.

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6. THE GOI SHOULD BE ASSURED THAT WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR BY THE BENGALIANS ON MATTERS ABOUT WHICH THE GOI HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN TO US. WE WOULD OF COURSE APPRECIATE INDIA'S ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND ANY VIEWS AS TO HOW IT MAY BE DEFUSED AND TENSIONS REDUCED.

7. KAUL IS COMING IN TO SEE UNDER SECRETARY SISCO NOVEM-

BER 28 AND WE WILL OF COURSE BE DISCUSSING BANGLADESH,
BUT WE THINK THE SITUATION DEMANDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION IN
NEW DELHI. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE281302
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DKUX/ADUBS/HLK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750412-1067
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975116/aaaaaerb.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 DACCA 5860
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIA AND BANGLADESH
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PINR, MPOL, IN, BG
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006